

George Washington to Thomas Mifflin, March 24, 1776, Instructions, The Writings of George Washington from the Original Manuscript Sources, 1745-1799. John C. Fitzpatrick, Editor.

ORDERS AND INSTRUCTIONS TO COLONEL THOMAS MIFFLIN¹

Cambridge, March 24, 1776.

As the motions of the Enemy, and the Operations of the ensuing Campaign, renders it indispensibly necessary that a very large Body of Troops should be immediately assembled at or near New York. You will immediately proceed to Norwich in Connecticut, where you will in Concert with the Brigadiers General Heath and Sullivan, regulate the Embarkation of the Brigades under their Command, and settle all such Matters with the Commissary General of Provisions, and Contractors for the Transports as may be further necessary for expediting the March of the Rest of the Army, with the Stores, Artillery, Camp Equipage &c.

This being done, you will proceed without Delay to New york where your first Care will be to provide Barracks for the Troops Firing, Forage, Quarters for the General Officers, Fix upon a proper House or Houses for a General Hospital, Stabling for the continental draught Horses, &c. &c.

Intrenching Tools must also be immediately provided, with a sufficient Quantity of Joist and Plank for Platforms and Timber for Gun Carriages; in short, every necessary Article for the publick Service, and which, your Experience the last Campaign convinces you, will be wanted for that now approaching.

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The Variety of the Business of your Department renders it next to impossible to point out particularly every Duty of your Office. Therefore a Latitude is given you in these Orders, and Instructions; which, together with the Directions and advice of the commanding General at New York, must be the Rule for the future Regulation of your Conduct; and I shall at present only recommend, that the same Integrity, Zeal, Diligence, and Activity, which has hitherto animated your past Services, May govern that which is to come.²

¹ifflin was Quartermaster General of the Continental Army.

²he draft of this letter is in the writing of Horatio Gates.